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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/868,875

09/18/2001

Muditha Pradeep Dantanarayana

JPD-4398-176

1264

23117 7590 10/07/2009

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EXAMINER

MENDOZA, MICHAEL G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3734

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/07/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/868,875	Applicant(s) DANTANARAYANA, MUDITHA PRADEEP	
	Examiner MICHAEL G. MENDOZA	Art Unit 3734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The final Office action mailed 30 September 2009 was in error and is hereby vacated and replaced by the following Non-final action..

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

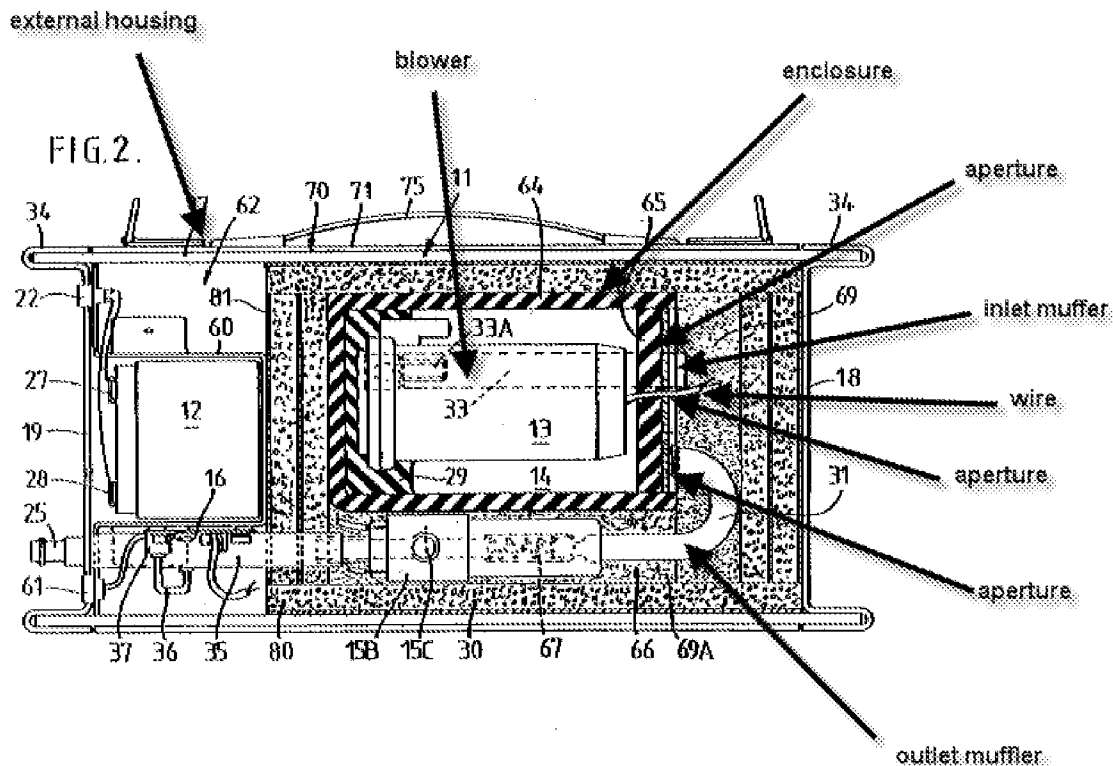
3. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, 15-19, 21-23, and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rimington et al. 5407330.

4. Rimington et al. teaches an apparatus including: a relatively rigid external housing; at least one noise producing component internal to the housing, the at least one noise producing component including an electric motor blower and at least a first muffler (made from a vibration absorbent material); and a thin (thin is a relative term) flexible (elastomeric) enclosure substantially sealed around the at least one noise producing component and sealed to the at least one noise producing component at at least one location (see provided figure); wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material; wherein the flexible enclosure includes an opening (closed/sealed by 65) adapted to allow passage of each the noise producing component into an interior of

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the flexible enclosure; wherein the opening is sealable or closable by adhesive tape (tape is not positively claimed, the opening of Rimington et al. can be sealed with tape); wherein the flexible enclosure includes one or more apertures to allow breathable gas into and out of each of the noise producing component; wherein the noise producing component further includes a second muffler, the first muffler defining an inlet muffler and the second muffler defines an outlet muffler, wherein atmospheric air is drawn through the inlet muffler before entering the blower, and the resulting pressurized air passing through the outlet muffler after leaving the blower, and the enclosure includes a first aperture substantially sealed with respect to an exterior of an inlet of the inlet muffler and a second aperture substantially sealed with respect to an exterior of an outlet of the outlet muffler; wherein the enclosure includes a third aperture for passage of one or more wires for transmitting power or control signals to an electric motor and/or other electrical components, the third aperture being substantially closed or sealable relative to the exterior of the wire.

5. As to the limitation "bag-like", The enclosure (64) of Rimington et al. has a base and side-wall and therefore meets the limitation of bag-like.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3, 12, and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rimington et al.

8. As to claims 3, 12, and 20, Rimington et al. discloses the claimed invention except for wherein the plastic material is Cosmothene F221-1 or polyethylene. It would

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have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed limitations, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to the plastic materials claimed for their properties for dampening which is required by Rimington et al. (col. 3, lines 50-53).

9. As to claim 24, Rimington et al. discloses the claimed invention except for generating gas in the range of 4-20 cm H₂O. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed range, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL G. MENDOZA whose telephone number is (571)272-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on (571) 272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. G. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3734